

What is Claimed is:

1. A method for dispensing postage in response to a transaction request received by a postage vendor over the Internet from a customer, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a meter license from the Post, said meter license being associated with a meter account assigned to the postage vendor;

receiving information from the customer, said information corresponding to the transaction requested and payment method;

processing the requested transaction by creating evidence of postage payment and effecting payment for the transaction based on the information received from the customer;

accounting for the created evidence of postage payment in the meter account assigned to the postage meter vendor; and

sending the evidence of postage payment to the customer.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining an origin of deposit postalcode for the requested transaction.

3. The method of claim 1, the information received from the customer includes a username, password and credit card information whereby a personal account is established for subsequent transactions.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the origin of deposit postal code is included in the information received from the customer.

5. A method for a postage vendor to dispense postage via a network comprising:

receiving a request for postage from a customer;

processing the request for postage by creating evidence of postage payment;

accounting for the created evidence of postage payment in a postal account assigned to the postage vendor; and

sending the evidence of postage payment to the customer via the network.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the evidence of postage payment includes a transaction number.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein receiving a request for postage from a customer further comprises:

receiving information to identify the customer.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the information to identify the customer includes at least one of a user name and a password.